

**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Yoshihito NARITA, Tsutomu INOUE

Application No.: New U.S. Patent Application

Filed: February 19, 2002

Docket No.: 111733

For: FIBER, PROBE AND OPTICAL HEAD OF MULTIPLE OPTICAL PATH ARRAY  
TYPE AND METHODS FOR MANUFACTURING THE SAME

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please replace claim 3 as follows:

3. (Amended) A multiple optical path array type probe manufactured by using the method for manufacturing a multiple optical path array type probe as claimed in Claim 1.

Please add new claim 17 as follows:

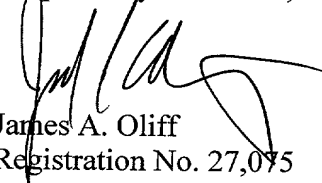
- 17. A multiple optical path array type probe manufactured by using the method for manufacturing a multiple optical path array type probe as claimed in Claim 2. --

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, claim 3 is amended and claim 17 is added to eliminate multiple dependencies. Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment: Appendix

Date: February 19, 2002

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APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

Claim 17 is added.

The following is a marked-up version of the amended claim:

3.     (Amended) A multiple optical path array type probe manufactured by using the method for manufacturing a multiple optical path array type probe as claimed in Claim 1 ~~or~~ 2.